

has given our communities a healthier future where citizens can have reliable health services.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Gorski for his dedication to improving the quality of care our citizens receive when they need it most. I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING FORMER SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER MIKE HEWITT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate former Washington State Senate Majority Leader Mike Hewitt on his retirement. Senator Hewitt had a successful business career before dedicating his time and energies to advocating for the people of southeast Washington.

He is an outstanding leader in the state legislature, and is respected by both sides of the aisle for his generous spirit and warmth. His business acumen meant he brought a valuable insight to public policy, owe we have all come to appreciate.

We have been so blessed to have Senator Hewitt doing everything he can to make sure the people of southeast Washington are his top priority, particularly veterans and the Hispanic community. Congratulations again Mike. Enjoy your retirement—you deserve it.

HONORING JIM HARRIS OF
WAUSAU, WI FOR HIS SERVICE
TO OTHERS

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today to recognize Mr. Jim Harris of Wausau, Wisconsin for his exceptional service to others.

Mr. Harris worked for more than 30 years in education. First, as a teacher in the Wisconsin Indian Teacher Corps, where he taught children of the Ho Chunk Tribe, and later as one of the first male kindergarten teachers in Wisconsin. Along his journey in education, Mr. Harris also spent two decades as a school administrator and an activist for public health.

During his many years of service in education, Mr. Harris got to know the children of Hmong Refugees who fled war in their home country to seek a better life in Wisconsin. Our state has a vibrant Hmong community that Mr. Harris has grown close to. He founded We Help War Victims, a nonprofit organization, with his wife, Marty, also a public school educator. Founded over 30 years ago, We Help War Victims has been working with refugee families in the Wausau, Wisconsin area, providing dozens of Lao schools with their first libraries, and helping families receive access to medical care.

Since 2006, the Harris' organization has been working with villagers in Laos to destroy land mines, bombs, rockets, mortars, and

other unexploded ordnance. Mr. and Mrs. Harris's example directly inspired me to fight for this cause in Congress and their advice has directly affected the focus of my efforts. Countless farmers and families across Laos live in safer communities because of Mr. Harris's work and my community in Wisconsin has been strengthened by the work he and his wife do through We Help War Victims.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to congratulate Mr. Harris on his accomplishments and work on behalf of others. His selfless demeanor in which he answers the call to serve in our district is truly valued.

JEFF MILLER AND RICHARD
BULMENTHAL VETERANS
HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016. I commend Chairman MILLER's and Congressman ROE's work on this important legislation.

I'm pleased to say that language from one of my bills, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act, is included in this bill as section 415. This section will require the VA to inform student-veterans—on the front-end, before they spend a dime of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits—about agreements between schools regarding the transfer of credits.

Despite having access to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, many veterans still end up having to take out student loans to cover the full cost of their education. In many cases, this is due to situations where veterans aren't aware that credits earned at one institution will not transfer to another school until after they have already expended a significant portion of their benefits.

By requiring that the VA provide veterans with this information on the front-end of the process, this legislation will address flaws in the system where veterans—many of whom are first-generation college students—are surprised by this feature of higher education.

Ultimately, decisions regarding how and where to use these benefits are rightfully left to those who served our country. Our veterans earned their benefits, and this bill will empower our veterans by arming them with the information and resources that they need to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 6416.

CONGRATULATING THE MOTHER
MCAULEY VOLLEYBALL TEAM
ON THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mother McAuley Liberal Arts

High School volleyball team—the Mighty Maccs—on being the first team ever to be named National Champions by USA Today, Max Preps, and Prep Volleyball.

Their history-making season included finishing strong with a 32 game winning streak that took them all the way through the Class 4A State Championship Tournament. After defeating Minooka in the final game, they secured their program's record 15th state championship, their first since 2013.

In compiling their near-perfect 40–1 record, Head Coach Jen DeJard's team was taken to three sets just seven times. Four of Mother McAuley's athletes were named to the Daily Southtown's 2016 All Area Team, a list that includes just 12 players. Mother McAuley's volleyball team has won at least one state championship in each of the past five decades, a long tradition of excellence.

I would like to wish the best of luck in the next season to the returning players and coaches, and continued success to the departing seniors, several of whom will play their next season at colleges including Notre Dame, Appalachian State, Ferris State, and Lipscomb.

I ask you to join me in congratulating the Mother McAuley Volleyball team on their excellent season and their historic success on the national stage.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
TIMOTHY HOY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, as both this Congress and the year come to a close, it is with heavy heart that I rise to honor, and remember, a kind and exemplary citizen whom we recently lost. Timothy Hoy, of Denton County, Texas, passed away the week of October 31st at the age of 55. Hoy was known to many for being extraordinarily active in Republican Party politics in Denton County, as well as at the state and national level. He was, as the Denton County Republican Party publicly remembered, "truly a legend in political circles;" but, more importantly, he was also "always kind, gentle and gracious to all." His profound friendliness was present to anyone he met, and it was a pleasure to get to know him over the years as someone who loved and served his community.

Originally from upstate New York, and having received his college education at the University of Dayton in Ohio, Hoy made Texas his home. In the late 1980s he began to become active in Republican politics in Denton County and became a precinct chairman, a role for which he would eventually be named Precinct Chair of the Year in 2001. He steadfastly served as an elections judge from the 1990s into the 2010s. His service also extended to being on the State Republican Executive Committee for eight years, from 2002 to 2010, and he received an award for his achievements in that role. His zeal for civic engagement for the betterment of his community was unparalleled.

Hoy's dedication and love for his fellow citizens in Texas, and desire to improve the lives of those around him, led him to work exceptionally hard and rigorously for the causes and

candidates in which he believed. The Denton County Republican Party recalls that “He was there for everything Republican. Every phone bank, every meeting, and countless campaigns, if there was a need, there was Tim to fill it. He was the first to come and the last to leave.” For these reasons, they named him Volunteer of the Year 1998. He was even known to the former majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dick Armey of Texas, who has said that “Tim Hoy was the constant guy for me. Whenever I came back to town, I would count on Tim to bring me up to speed on things here in Denton County.” His work for individuals seeking an elected public service role included serving as campaign manager for County Commissioner Ron Marchant during his first run for the city council of Carrollton, Texas. Senator TED CRUZ was a favorite official of Hoy, who loyally campaigned for him in Iowa during the 2016 presidential primary election.

During all of this tireless service and exceptional labor, Hoy continued to perform his daily job. He embodied his love for service to the public as he worked as a mail clerk for the Denton County Sheriffs Office for 23 years.

A man who worked for his strong conservative ideals, with a spirit of public service and true friendliness to all in the community, Hoy will be missed and remembered in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my distinguishing colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring Timothy Hoy.

TRIBUTE TO BILL CARNAHAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to southern California are exceptional. Mr. Bill Carnahan, who, for more than 16 years, has served with distinction as Executive Director of the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) will be retiring after 50 years of dedicated service to public utility.

Since he became Executive Director in 2000, Mr. Carnahan has succeeded in making SCPPA one of the largest and most active joint action agencies in the country, with a diverse energy resource portfolio. SCPPA represents 11 community-owned utilities and one irrigation district that provide electricity to 4.8 million people, over 7,000 square miles in Southern California. Mr. Carnahan has worked with Members of Congress throughout the West, from both sides of the aisle, to advance the interests of community-owned utilities. He is well known for his vision, his ability to bring stakeholders together, and his forthrightness. Bill has played a pivotal role in advocating on behalf of non-profit, publicly-accountable utilities that serve consumers in small and large communities alike.

Under Mr. Carnahan's leadership, SCPPA has grown immensely—evolving from six generation and transmission projects in its early days, to 32 generation and three transmission projects bringing power from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada to Southern California today. Mr. Carnahan helped enact legislation to extend

federal contracts which will ensure that Southern California consumers continue to enjoy emissions-free hydropower from Hoover Dam for another 50 years. Hoover power is a low-cost, reliable energy resource, and is critical to helping keep Southern California's energy costs as low as possible. The bill, the “Hoover Power Allocation Act,” was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2011.

My personal and professional respect and admiration for Mr. Carnahan runs deep, and I wish him happiness and good health in his retirement. The wise counsel, determination, and good Scotch-Irish sense-of-humor, which he has provided to me and others in Congress for many years on behalf of public power—will be fondly remembered.

TRIBUTE TO CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF MEMBERS

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special group of people from Florida's 13th Congressional District. I rise to recognize the current and former staff members of our congressional office, both at home in Pinellas County and here in the halls of Congress. And importantly, I do so not just on my behalf, but truly on behalf of a most grateful community that for nearly three years has been blessed to have a team of dedicated and selfless individuals serving Pinellas County residents by giving voice to the interests and concerns of everyone, regardless of political party; fighting for those in need of assistance at their most challenging times; and working ceaselessly to improve the lives of every individual they encountered.

Mr. Speaker, each one of us who have the privilege to serve in this body, the People's House, understand the honor that has been bestowed upon us by our community. But to fulfill our responsibilities, both constitutional and sacred, we are only as good as the team around us. Mr. Speaker, I have been blessed to work with a remarkable team of individuals, and I stand here today proud of each one of them and grateful for their willingness to serve our community and our country.

It's a unique role to serve on a congressional staff. You have to bring a servant's heart, a commitment to your community, and a willingness to listen to the criticisms brought on not by your own actions, but by the actions of the institution for which you work—the actions that you and I as colleagues take in making decisions of policy and of politics. And in doing so, the staff members of this body serve their nation just as faithfully and honorably as you and I attempt to do so each day. It is their work, as much as ours, that leads our nation forward, and leads our communities and our neighbors through some of our most challenging times.

It is for this reason that I recognize with a grateful heart, and on behalf of a grateful community, the work of the following individuals who have served Florida's 13th Congressional District during my time in office:

Mr. John David White, Chief of Staff; Mr. Preston Rudie, Communications Director; Ms.

Nicole Smith, Constituent Services; Ms. Stephani Lavelly, Constituent Services; Ms. Brenda Frantz, Constituent Services; Ms. Sandy Hutton, Constituent Services; Mr. Nick Golden, Constituent Services; Mr. Paul Matthews, Constituent Services & Legislative Staff; Ms. Katie Heffernan, Constituent Services; Ms. Rochelle Colburn, Constituent Services; Ms. Sharon Ghezzi, Constituent Services; Ms. Natalee Campagnola, Constituent Services; Mr. Adam Boggs, Constituent Services; Ms. Jennifer Nawrocki, Legislative Director; Mr. Ian Manzano, Senior Policy Advisor; Mr. Tim Medeiros, Legislative Staff; Mr. Reggie Paros, Legislative Staff; Mr. Doug DeWyssocki, Jr., Legislative Staff; Mr. Joshua Perez, Legislative Staff; Mr. Nicholas Catroppo, Deputy Chief of Staff; Ms. Alex Goodman, Legislative Staff; Mr. L.J. Govoni, Legislative Staff; Ms. Brittany Roberts, Legislative Staff; Mr. Joshua Nawrocki, Legislative Staff; and Ms. Blake Churchman, Legislative Staff.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that the House join me in recognizing the service of each of these individuals. This body has been well served, and indeed is better today, because of the service of these men and women; and the people of Pinellas County, Florida can be proud of their faithful work over these last three years. I consider each to be a friend, and I thank them today for joining me on this remarkable journey of representing Florida's 13th Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent December 2nd due to a medical appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call Vote 600, agreeing to the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

This year's NDAA passed by the House of Representatives continues to contain spending for wars that were never authorized by Congress, mandates restrictions on closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay, and supplements Pentagon spending with \$67.8 billion in Overseas Contingency Operation funds. For these reasons, I oppose the Fiscal Year 2017 NDAA.

However, the NDAA did include a lot of meritorious provisions that I support including a 2.1 percent pay increase for our military men and women. Those who serve in uniform have already made extraordinary sacrifices for our country, and have earned and deserve a pay raise. I also strongly support the provisions that address the growing problem of sexual assault in the military by updating the Uniform Code of Military Justice and providing public access to court documents and proceedings.

Additionally, I support the addition of language to direct the DOD to complete a review of all California Guard members who were impacted by the California National Guard Bonus Recoupment scandal and alleviate financial hardship for California Guardsmen who were erroneously paid bonuses. I am appalled that the Pentagon punished service members for